

principal fountains or wells in the suburbs, viz. Holy-well, Clement's-well, and Clarken-well, and also Skinner's-well, Pag's-well, Tode-well, Loder's-well, and Rad-well. In West Smithfield there was also a pool called Horse-pond, and one near St. Giles-without-Cripplegate; besides which, many of the streets were supplied with springs or wells.

In the year 1707, the foundations for some houses having been dug near the City-wall, at Bishopsgate, and part of the wall being applied for the buildings, Dr. Woodward took that opportunity of examining this ancient structure. The foundations of the wall at this place lay eight feet beneath the surface, and from that up to almost ten feet in height, it was composed of ragstone, with single layers of broad tiles interposed, two feet apart. To this height the workmanship was after the Roman manner, being the remains of the wall supposed to be built by Constantine the Great. The mortar was so firm and hard, that the stone itself as easily gave way to the implements of the workmen employed in breaking it down. It was thus far nine feet in thickness. The tiles used in this part of the wall were those termed *asquipedales*, that is, tiles of 1½ ft.; each of them, in English measure, was 1½ in. in thickness, 11½ in. in breadth, and 17½ in. in length. On the sides were interposed open bricks, occasionally the stone outside was squared and wrought into layers 5 inches thick; between these were ultimately interposed two courses of brick of the same form as those on the inside, 11 inches long and 2½ thick.

(To be continued.)

A GLANCE AT THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCHES IN THE DEANERY OF SPARKHAM, IN NORFOLK.—NO. V.

WITH NOTICES OF THEIR ACTUAL CONDITION.

(Continued from p. 457.)

Elsing, anciently Aving.—The bright sunshine of an afternoon in May was expanding the wild flowers on Elsing Heath as, skirting the clump of spruce-firs that tops its western acclivity, we descended into a verdant amphitheatre, of which the parish church forms the nucleus. Serenely beautiful rose

"The grey embattled tower,
Buttress, and porch, and arch with many round
Of curious fret or shapes fantastic crown'd."

Of more ample dimensions, presenting a much larger proportion of "elene hewen ashler" in the finished masonry of the more ornamental portions, and being altogether in a state of far higher preservation, Elsing Church is by no means behind that just quitted in offering its own attractions for the pilgrim of ecclesiastical beauty.

This church consists of a spacious nave and chancel, on the north side of which last is a vestry or vestry, the floor indicating that it has been the burial-place of some former incumbent. A lofty square tower, situate at the west end, and furnished with five bells, opens on the nave under a pointed arch springing from double octagonal pilasters; but this fine feature is marred by the introduction of a paltry gallery projecting into the nave. A spiral staircase at one of the angles is lighted by perforations in the masonry, of squared flint, with buttresses of solid freestone. The steeple is surmounted by an embattled parapet, as also are the side walls of the nave and chancel.

We were gratified to find the windows of this handsome church furnished with grating at the wickets to prevent, when these are set open, the ingress of birds. The crockets are for the most part arranged in flowing and ramified tracery, but several unsightly wooden bars intersecting these hardly reconcile us to the loss of effect by the additional security thus afforded. The fine east window, which fell *inwards* several years since, has suffered much disfigurement in this way; but we must own that, in many such cases, recourse would have been at once had to the bricklayer, and that despite the portraits of Sir Hugh de Hastings and the Lady Margaret, "hye wyf," yet seen on the painted glass of the central light.

Some time ago it became necessary to dislodge a swarm of bees that had possessed themselves of a crevice in the south-east portion of the nave-gable, and in effecting this, parts of an ancient staircase to the rood-loft

were discovered. The chancel arch under which this stood is, from its height and breadth, peculiarly imposing. The rood-screen, or rather the closed portion of it yet remaining, exhibits a profusion of rich carved-work; it has been converted to the use of seats, backing on the altar, by adding fronts indifferently sculptured in the style known as arabesque. The piscina and sedilla, under a range of ogive arches, only require to be freed from the incrustations, the effect of periodical latherings, under which their beauties lie concealed. The altar rails, formed of small shafts supporting Norman arches which intersect each other, afford a specimen of commendable taste, in which the present authorities have shown themselves miserably deficient. A dorsal or altar-screen lately set up here moves our spleen every way—meagre in design and gaudy in colouring. And yet we were told that the thing cost amply enough to have purchased one of far higher character. Strange that the juxtaposition of a brass mural table, placed in a niche surmounted by a canopy which is enriched with crockets and a finial, wondrous that this elegant monument hindered not the perpetration of such a deformity! A large altar-tomb appears on the north side, and in the centre a marble slab with elaborate brasses, the portraiture of a knight in complete armour with a lion at his feet, &c. Thus much of the chancel, which has the convenience of a priest's door at the south side.

The open wood-work of the leaded roof gave place in 1779 to the semicircular ceiling with tiles above, which now appears here; a change every way to be deplored, as the absence of pillars causes a defect of light and shadow within this church ill remedied by the unbroken superficies over head. An endowment for repairs amounting, we believe, to 20*l.* per annum, only shows that it avails little to hold such resources unless men of a better and purer taste than heretofore be found to direct their application. The pews over a large portion of the church have the merit of fronting the altar; but two parlour-like inclosures at the eastern angles receive, no doubt, occupants of a higher worship than the rest,—the grave Mr. Justice *Tonson*, the good lady *Jones* and the two virtuous gentlewomen her daughters. The pulpit, reading, and clerk's desks, are sorry affairs in themselves, but their position is, in degree, commendable; a fine window nearly filled with painted glass of splendid design throws in its mellow light here with elegant effect. The walls offer the first instance yet occurring in this deanery of the "acrolls that teach us to live and die."

The font has high claims to notice, the fine tabernacle-work of its cover yet more so. The bowl of the former, octangular in shape, embattled and wreathed beneath with a chaplet, stands on a low shaft having its sides fluted in cavetto, and resting on an octagonal base; this again impends on a square moulded plinth, the whole terminating pavement-ward in an easy eight-sided step. It will suffice in respect of the cover to say that Mr. Blore's cultivated taste has led him to appreciate the beauty of its miniature windows and flying buttresses without, its fan-tracery and pendants within. Lamentable to add, this elegant appendage has become, through vulgar stint, an impediment to the hallowed office our forefathers sought to embellish by it. Being now without the ancient facility for raising this in appearance light, but really ponderous adjunct to the baptistery, a pewter basin substitutes the noble leaded bowl, with its orifice to permit escape to the sanctified fluid; and, as a natural consequence, the officiating minister stands anywhere save upon the step provided for his accommodation. The site of this font, as will be shown hereafter, is highly appropriate.

The only indication of a niche for the holy water stoup is afforded on the west side of the north door, the commonly used one, by a short beam which projects there; its use, to suspend the key from. Ogive arches over the doorways both of church and porch are foliated, crocketed, and surmounted by finials. A few stunted fir-trees in the north-east angle of the cemetery contrast strangely with the wild luxuriance of their fellows on the heath—

"They cannot quit their place of birth;
They will not live in other earth."

* Mr. Repton, in the XVth vol. of the *Archæologia*, supposes this to have been one of the earliest instances.

RETROSPECTIVE ARCHITECTURAL LITERATURE.

THE ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE.

COLLECTED BY SIR HENRY WOTTON, KNIGHT,
From the best Authors and Examples.

(Continued from p. 493.)

First, I must note a certain Contrariety between Building and Gardening: For as Fabrics should be regular, so Gardens should be irregular, or at least cast into a very wild Regularity. To exemplify my Conceit, I have seen a Garden (for the Manner perchance incomparable) into which the first access was a high Walk like a Terrace, from whence might be taken a general View of the whole Plot below; but rather in a delightful Confusion, than with any plain Distinction of the Pieces. From this the Beholder descending many steps, was afterwards conveyed again by several Mountains and Valings, to various Entertainments of Scent and Sight, which I shall not need to describe (for that were poetical); let me only note this, that every one of these Diversities was as if he had been magically transported into a new Garden.

But though other Countries have more benefit of the Sun than we, and thereby more properly tied to contemplate this Delight, yet have I seen in our own, a delicate and diligent Curiosity, surely without parallel among foreign Nations; namely, in the Garden of Sir Henry Fanshawe, at his Seat in Ware-Park, where I well remember he did so precisely examine the Tinctures and Seasons of his Flowers, that in their setting, the inwardness of those which were to come up at the same time, should be always a little darker than the outmost, and so serve them for a kind of gentle Shadow, like a Piece not of Nature, but of Art: Which mention (incident to this Place) I have willingly made of his name, for the dear Friendship that was long between us: Though I must confess with much wrong to his other Virtues, which deserve a more solid Memorial, than among these vacant Observations. So much of *Gardens*.

Fountains are figured, or only plain Water'd-Works: Of either of which, I will describe a matchless Pattern.

The First done by the famous Hand of Michael Angelo da Buonarroti, in the Figure of a sturdy Woman, washing and winding of Linnen Cloths; in which Act she wrings out the Water that made the Fountain: which was a graceful and natural Conceit in the Artificer, implying this Rule, That all Designs of this kind should be proper.

The other doth merit some larger Expression: There went a long, straight, mossy Walk of competent breadth, green and soft under foot, listed on both sides with an *Aqueduct* of white Stone, Breast high, which had a hollow Channel on the Top, where ran a pretty trickling Stream; on the Edge whereof were couched very thick all along, certain small Pipes of Lead, in little holes, so neatly, that they could not be well perceived, till by the turning of a Cock, they did spurt over interchangeably from side to side, above Man's height, in form of Arches, without any Inter-section or meeting aloft, because the Pipes were not exactly opposite; so as the Beholder, besides that which was fluent in the *Aqueducts* on both hands in his view, did walk as it were under a continual Shower or Hemisphere of Water, without any drop falling on him. An Invention for Refreshment, surely far exceeding all the Alexandrian Delicacies, and Pneumatics of Hero.

Groves and artificial Devices under-ground, are of great Expence, and little Dignity; which, for my part, I could wish converted here into those *Crypteria* whereof mention is made among the curious Provisions of Tycho Brahe, the Danish Ptolomy, as I may well call him; which were deep Concaves in Gardens, where the Stars might be observed even at Noon. For (by the way) to think that the brightness of the Sun's Body above, doth drown our discerning of the lesser Lights, is a popular Error; the sole Impediment being that Lustre, which by Reflection doth spread about us from the Face of the Earth; so as the Caves before touched, may well conduce, not to a delicious, but to a learned Pleasure.

In *Aviaries* of Wire, to keep Birds of all sorts, the Italians (though no wasteful Nation) do in some Places bestow vast Expence; including great scope of Ground, variety of